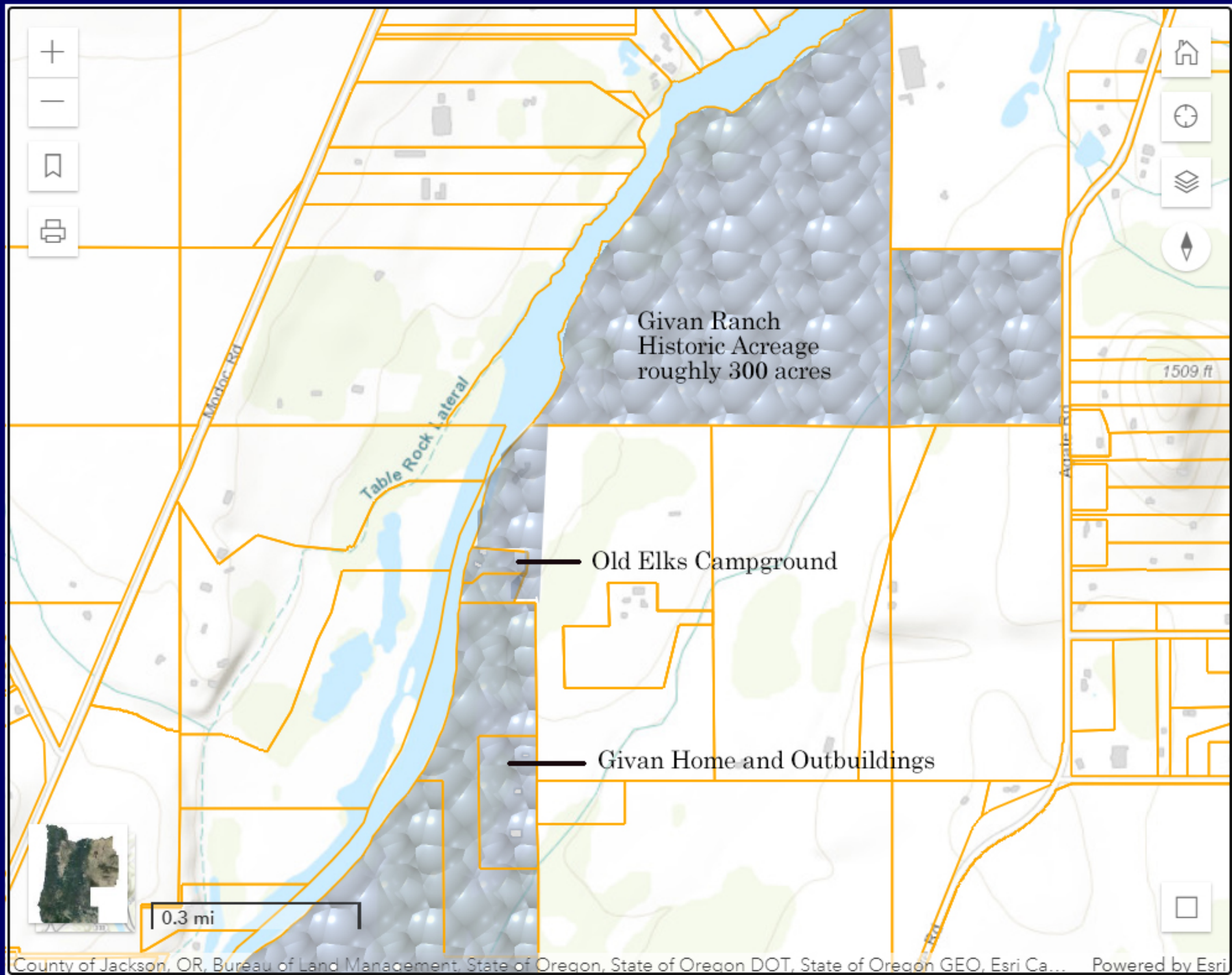
The Givan Ranch


Givan Ranch
Historic Acreage
roughly 300 acres
Old Elks Campground
Givan Home and Outbuildings
Modoc Rd
Table Rock Lateral
1509 ft
0.3 mi
County of Jackson, OR, Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon, State of Oregon DOT, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Ca...
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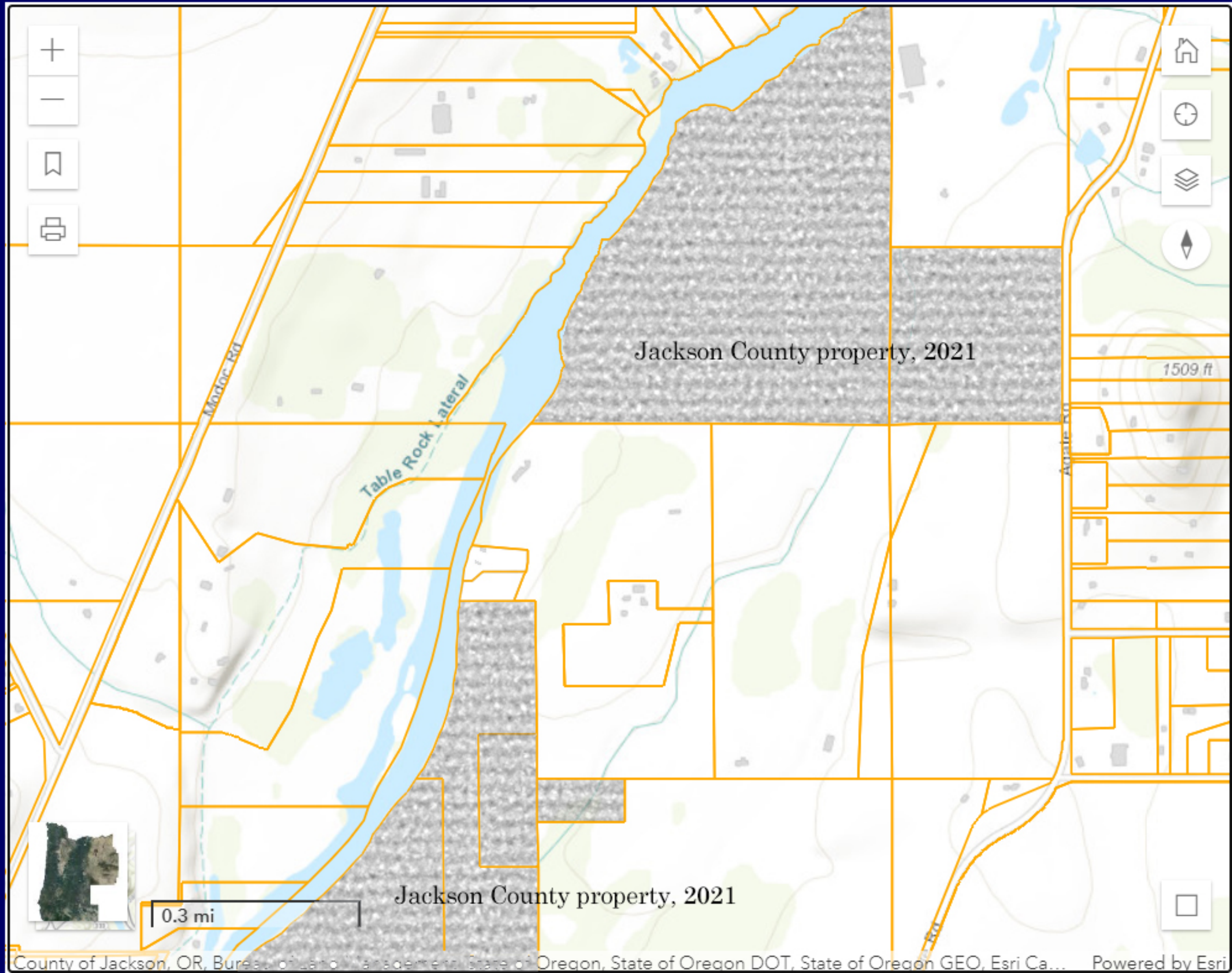
Jackson County property, 2021
Modoc Rd
Table Rock Lateral
1509 ft
Apache Rd
Jackson County property, 2021
0.3 mi
County of Jackson, OR, Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon, State of Oregon DOT, State of Oregon GEO, Esri Ca...
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The Givin Dairy Farm

It was a dairy farm started around the late 1880's 33 acres along the Rogue River just below the city of Eagle Point in Southern Oregon. The farm provided fresh milk to the logging communites along the Rogue River and Mt McLoughlin. It was owned and run by the Givin family. It was called the Givin Dairy Farm with two boys born in the 1890's. Duey, the older of the two and Charlie, who I spent many years talking to later in his life. At first milk was delivered by horse and wagon but then America went to war in WW1. Charlie joined the Army and served over seas where he saw the importance of the motorized vehicles. He saved most of his money while in the Army and when he returned home his brother and him went into Medford Oregon and bought a new 1919 Dodge Brothers Touring. This was the first motorized vehicle on the farm they had a picture taken when they first got it home in their Sunday go to meeting clothes it was very special day for the farm. It gave them many years of good service and a few trips to Crater Lake National Park. Today that trip is less than 2 hours in the 1920's it took 1 1/2 days you took your camping gear. It wasn't replaced until 1932 but they didn't want to get rid of it so it was parked in the main barn.

Some time around 1920 to the best of Charlie's memory, a soldier who served in the Army, wanted to see the country he fought for during WW1. For this trip to see America he bought a 1917 Dodge Brothers Business Car (the first trucks Dodge built were called business cars). This one was built for the Army in June of 1917 but for some reason was never sent to Europe stayed in America by 1920 it was already outdated and was in a Army surplus sale and the soldier bought it. He started in the Detorit area and drove into South Dakota to Washington and down into Oregon. He wanted some extra money for the trip into California so he went to work on the Givin Dairy Farm. When he was working on the farm he received word that a family member was very sick and needed to return home. In the 1920's the fastest way of travel then was the train in Medford. He sold the Dodge Brothers Business Car he was driving for some money and a train ticket back to Detroit the brothers never saw him again. Charlie told me it was a wonderful day for the farm now they had a Dodge Brothers truck. I was told it didn't take long to remove the side screens so it could be loaded from all sides. Alot of driving up the mountain roads along the Rogue River was being done when a mechanic in Eagle Point told them about getting more horse power by putting an exhaust cutout before the muffler they had this done in doing so it also made the truck louder, not knowing it would be the history of the truck because the people in the small loging towns would

hear the truck coming with the cutout open and know fresh milk was coming to town and from then on it was called " The Milk Truck". Many people who were young growing up in the small loging towns remember the old milk truck and one story that was told to me was interesting. Around 1935 on one very hot summer day a woman had taken a pair of long pants and made them into cut offs shorts, Duey was driving to Butte Falls with a load of milk and got distracted as she was hanging up clothes outside (not alot of bare legs were showen at this time in Southern Oregon) he drove off the road and hit a big pine tree --- OOPS. The damage was so bad they had to buy another truck to deliver milk, the times had also changed and they were now delivering to stores not selling individualy to people. They put the business car (truck) back together now with steel rims not wooden spoke and drove it around the farm till 1954 when it was finaly parked. As the years went by the blackberry vines took over completely covering it and the truck became lost. Duey never recovered from a log truck accident in 1955 and passed away in 1957 the brothers never got married it was always the farm. In 1979 my late wife found the truck while picking blackberries even Charlie now in his 80's thought it had been stolden it was so completely covered up with 25 years of blackberry vines it took me over 3 hours to free it. I asked Charlie if he would be interested in selling the truck and he told me it was the history of the farm. Charlie had stoped working the farm with the loss of his brother now after 30 years the farm was in total disarray and told me he always wanted to fix up the old truck but he was to old now and if he sold it the price would be high I asked how much and he told me $100.00. I left Charlie and my late wife holding a 1/2 bucket of blackberries went into Medford for money, truck and trailer. The sun was starting to set when I was loaded pulling out on my way back to Medford on that trip I was pulled over twice once by a Oregon Sheriff who told me he had never seen anything like this not only did the truck have blackberry vines inside it some on the outside had come loose and were flying about 4 feet off the back he had me cut them and sent me on my way but before I got home a Oregon Highway Patrol Officer pulled me over again more vines had come loose he also had me cut the vines and sent me on my way. Charlie gave the farm to Jackson County in hopes of it to be a park, after Charlie's death in the 1980's Jackson County tore down everything and sold sections for homes along the Rogue River so now its just all a memory.

For a few years I didn't know what I had at one time I had a Chevy 396 engine, 4 speed transmission and 9 inch Ford rear end---make a wild hot rod. My savior was Gil Belcher who I met at a Portland swat meet I told him what I had and he was interested so he stoped by my house in Medford Oregon on his way home to California from that

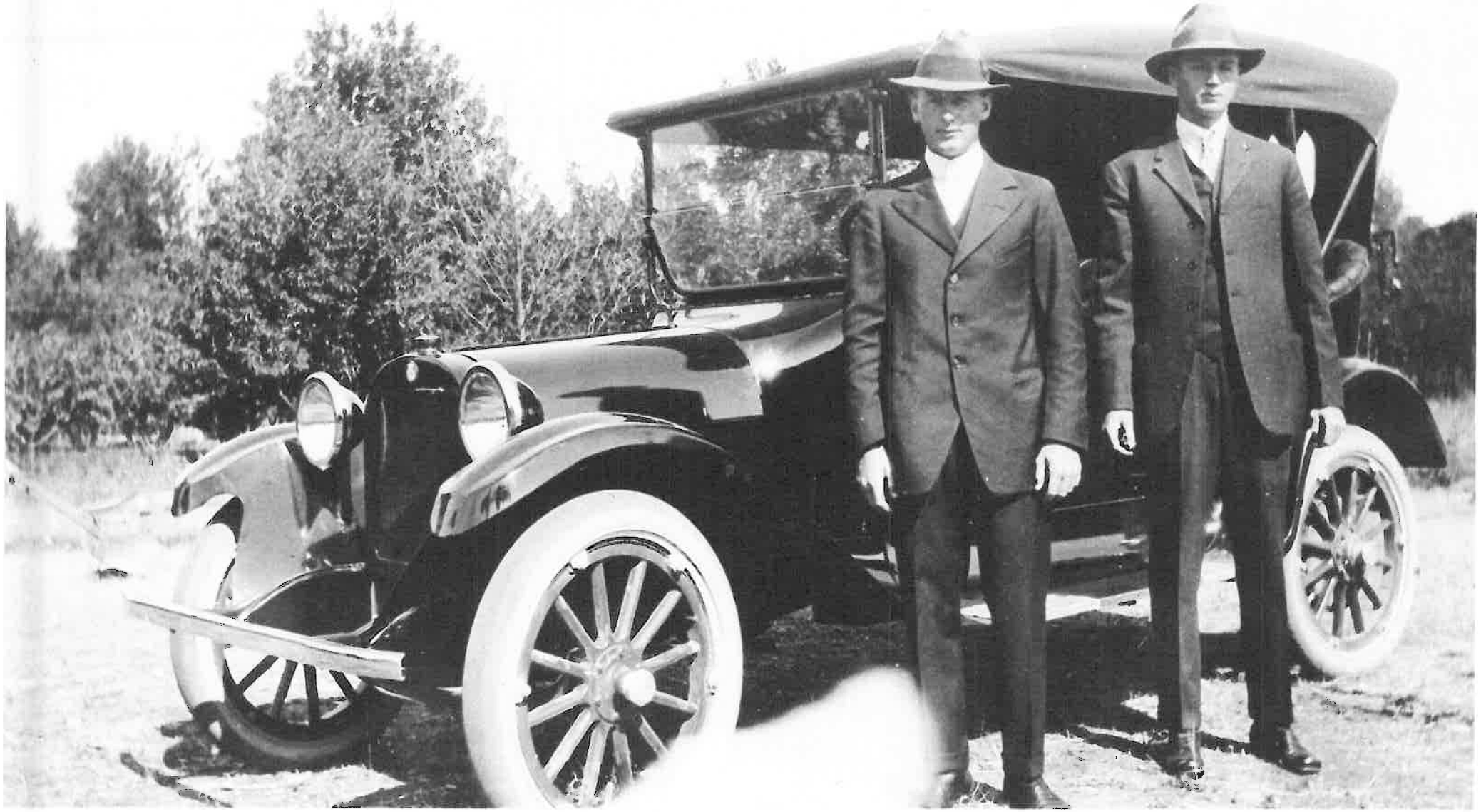
swat meet to see the truck. Gil told me I had the oldest Dodge Brothers Business Car he had ever seen it did have some later Dodge parts like the steel rims and was missing side screens but most of it was there. I was young and realize I had something special so I parked and covered it and started looking for parts.

Gil and I spent many years exploring Northern California and Southern Oregon looking for Dodge Brothers parts. I did find most of the missing parts still on the farm for the business car, even the bent front axle from the accident and the wooden wheels. The side screens were in the horse shoe shead holding horse shoes on the walls. Looking for parts in the main barn their was a big pile of empty grain bags 6 feet tall thrown from the 2nd floor from feeding the cows, I thought it would be interesting to have some of them in the back of the business car for shows. Pulling some bags away from the pile I found the 1919 Dodge Brothers Touring it was completely covered I don't know how many people in the last 3 decades have walked by the pile not knowing under the pile was a 1919 Dodge Brothers Touring over 40 years of grain bags had totality covered it. I went up to the house and told Charlie what I found, Charlie knew it was their but didn't want to part with it because being the first vehicle they bought so he kept it covered with the grain bags through all the years. Charlie told me since I was the one who found it and had the truck he would sell me the touring again the price was $100.00. The business car (with cutout) and touring are going back together and will be just like they were 98 years ago on the Givin Dairy Farm. The 1917 Dodge Brothers Business Car served in our country's armed forces and also helped an American business grow a small set of history from the Dodge brothers and Givin brothers.

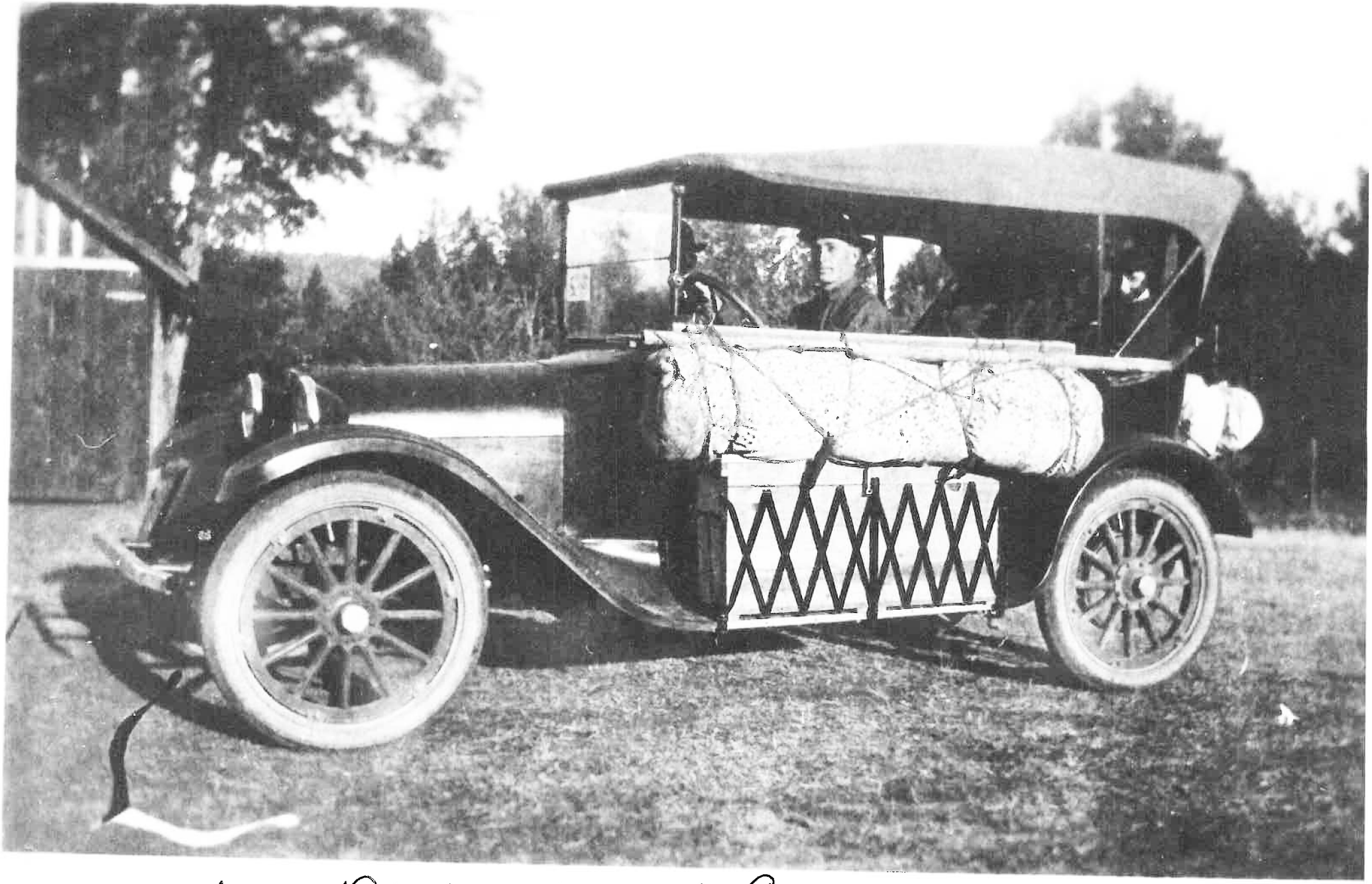
I was told that the original pictures of the 1919 Dodge Brothers Touring when it was first brought home and on a trip to Carter Lake in the late 1920's was givin to you I was able to have copies made just before that happened. That wasn't the only vehicle the Givin brothers had in the 1920's on their dairy farm they also had a 1917 Dodge Brothers Business Car for decades I've been told this was a parts vehicle someone built it was not Dodge Brothers factory production. Dodge Brothers didn't start to produce the business car to be sold to the public till October 1917 and this business car was produce in June 1917. Last year I was in contact with a Army vehicle historian and was told that the Army contacted Dodge Brothers to build them vehicles to be used in WW1 the Dodge Brothers started production in April 1917. Most all of production was sent to Europe only a few were kept in the states it has taken months to verify this vehicle and it is a original 1917 Dodge Brothers Army Business Car possibly the oldest business car (Dodge truck) in existence and drove through Eagle Point in the 1920's and some of the 1930's delivering milk.

I've just had back operation (2 rods and 8 screws) so hopefuly some time this summer I will be getting back to putting both 1917 and 1919 together just like on the Givin Dairy Farm in the 1920's. If you would like real pictures not printed copies let me know and I will send them. I thought this was interesting history of the Eagle Point area. I lived in the Rogue River valley till 1996 when the timber industry took a dive I had a 1936 Ford truck that I sold a man in Charlotte NC and he offered me a great job so I moved my family in 1996 but still miss Southern Oregon. I do have a daughter in Bandon Oregon that I will be seeing next year for my grand daughters gradation from high school. Hope you enjoy the history of the Givin dairy farm with the Dodges. The complete picture of the 1918 Dodge Brothers Business Car is not mine but what it will look like when complete

Jim Guenther



FIRST DAY HOME



LATE 1920'S TRIP TO CRATER LAKE

143-174

1918 Dodge Brothers
Business Car

Picture of what mine
will look like

JAG

FIRST CLASS

EAGLE POINT
202 N. ROYA
EAGLE POINT

97524